



Implementation of Intrastate and Interstate Mutual Aid/Assistance Programs for Water and Wastewater Utilities

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Mutual Aid/Assistance

Plans and
Protocols

Practice

Preparedness

Partnerships





Mutual Aid/Assistance Process

- ♦ **Intrastate**
 - Initiates locally
 - Moves through a pre-designed and planned process
 - Coordination among utilities and emergency management
 - Best use of resources and quicker response
 - Allow for FEMA reimbursement, if appropriate
- ♦ **Interstate**
 - Emergency Management Assistance Compact
 - Relies on state WARN “chapters”
 - Integrates with National Response Plan and National Incident Management System
- ♦ **Manages expectations of how requests are made and filled**



Activating Mutual Aid/Assistance

- ♦ **Field responsibilities**
 - Identify resource needs (personnel and equipment)
 - Identify whether resources can be obtained locally
 - Request resources from management





Activating Mutual Aid/Assistance

♦ Management

- Identify whether resources can be obtained from portions of the utility
- Identify which of three mutual aid/assistance programs to activate
 - Local mutual aid agreement
 - Statewide mutual aid agreement
 - Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN)



Decision of Which to Use

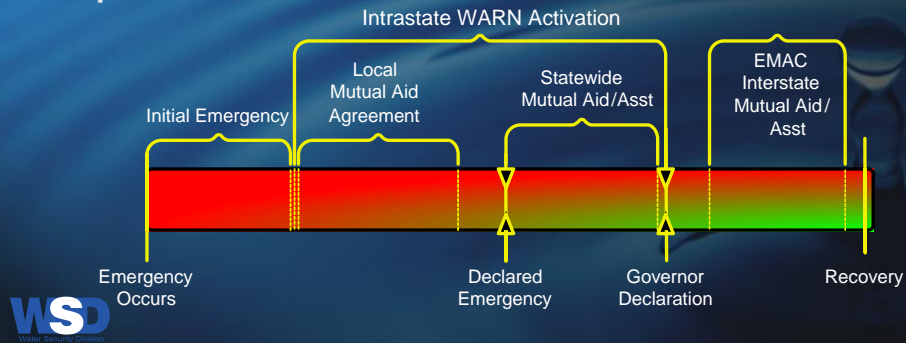
- ♦ Local mutual aid agreement
 - Between one or more utilities
 - Immediate response
- ♦ Statewide mutual aid/assistance agreement
 - Managed by state emergency management agency
 - Restricted to public agencies
 - Typically requires declaration of emergency
- ♦ WARN
 - Managed by utilities for utilities
 - Public and private utilities involved
 - Can be used prior to emergency declaration





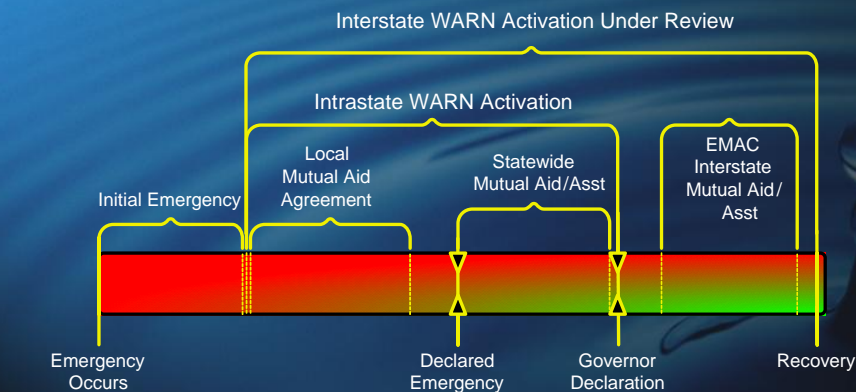
State Emergency

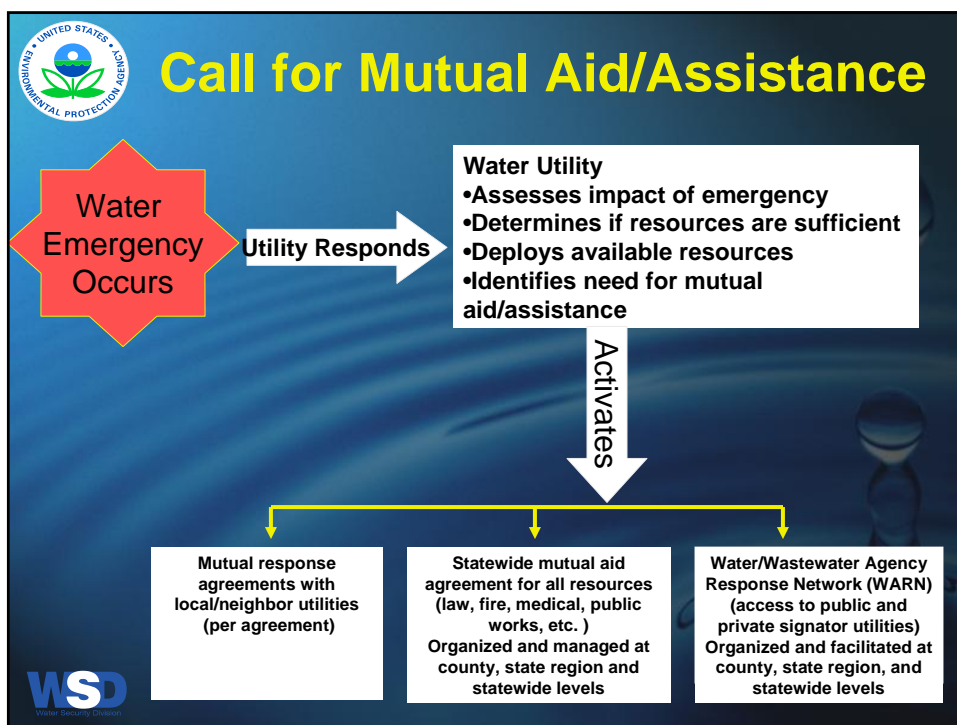
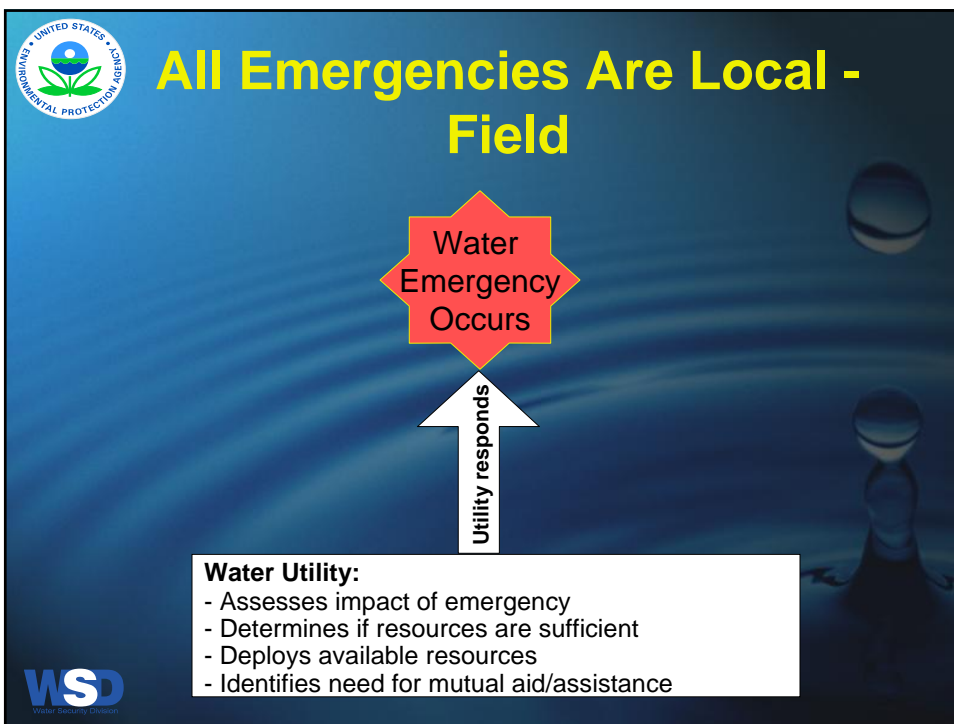
- Integrate with the State Emergency Management
- Interstate link through EMAC at this time
- Notice “gap” in response and into recovery
- WARN does not require declaration and includes private resources.



Interstate Mutual Aid/Asst

- Working on development of an interstate program
- Need to fill the “gaps” with utilities helping utilities







Critical Decision Support

- ♦ **Local utility**
 - Communicate with county emergency management
 - Provide information on emergency impact and resource need
- ♦ **County utility representative/coordinator**
 - Receive information, identify ability to assist
 - Identify utilities' resources within the county
 - Provide information of utility needs to the state
- ♦ **State utility representative/coordinator**
 - Could be a WARN representative
 - Receives utility needs within the impact county
 - Determines resources available through the WARN program
 - Coordinates the deployment to area of need

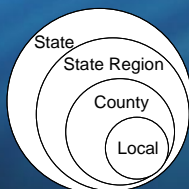


Critical Coordination

Mutual response agreements with local/neighbor utilities (per agreement)

Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) (access to public and private signator utilities) Organized and facilitated at county, state region, and statewide levels.

Statewide mutual aid agreement for all resources (law, fire, medical, public works, etc.) Organized and managed at county, state region and statewide levels. Typically requires declaration. No private utilities.



Assigned agent at the county, region and state level reviews requests and matches to available resources within their sphere of influence (e.g., county looks within county; state region looks among multiple counties; state looks among unaffected regions of state). When resource is not available at one level, the request moves up the chain to the next level (e.g., county moves request to region and region moves request to state, state moves request to federal level).



- WARN representative at the affected county and state region and state EOC
- WARN representatives at the neighboring unaffected county
- WARN reps manage request and available resources

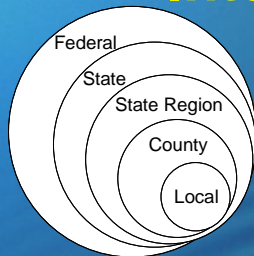


Interstate Support

- ♦ **Emergency Management Assistance Compact**
 - Contact for assistance is through the state
 - Only Federally endorsed interstate assistance program
 - Managed by the National Emergency Management Agency
 - Coordinated by designated representatives in each of the 50 state offices of emergency management
 - Access to mutual aid/assistance resources with any state
- ♦ **National Response Plan**
 - Emergency Support Function 3 – Public Works and Engineering
 - US Army Corp of Engineers lead; US EPA support



Interstate Mutual Aid



Assigned agent at the county region and state level reviews request and matches to available resource within their sphere of influence (e.g county looks within county state region looks among multiple counties, and state looks among unaffected regions of state). When resource is not available at one level the request moves up the chain to the next level (e.g county moves request to region, and region moves request to state state moves request to federal level).

National Response Plan
EMAC

**State Office of
Emergency Services
(OES) or Management
(OEM)**

- WARN representative at the affected State EOC
- WARN representative at the neighboring unaffected State EOC
- The two coordinate requests and available resources and coordinate with the EMAC groups at both EOC
 - Can also be done at the Joint Field Operations Center established by DHS/FEMA





EMAC Tips for the Water Sector

- ♦ For Requesting States
 - Be aware that EMAC can be used
 - Be specific about what you need
 - Use personal contacts to your advantage
- ♦ For Assisting States
 - Develop cost estimates
 - Review all paperwork closely
 - Explore mechanisms to deploy private sector resources



EPA Support

- ♦ Funding AWWA regional WARN workshops
- ♦ Post workshop assistance
 - Case-by-case basis
 - Determined by
 - Available funds
 - Individual WARN needs and available resources
- ♦ Possible assistance
 - Facilitation and coaching
 - Phone conferences
 - Reference materials
 - Technical assistance in creating a website

